

## News Release

# Clean Water for Everyone Dinner to be held at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 5, 2015, at the U of M Crookston; Tickets are \$25 and all proceeds support safe drinking water for rural Lome', Togo

By Elizabeth Tollefson on Friday, February 13, 2015The 4th annual Clean Water for Everyone (CWFE) dinner will be held at 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 5, 2015, in Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center, at the University of Minnesota Crookston. Dinner tickets are \$25 per person. All proceeds from the dinner, sponsored by Enactus, support the CWFE initiative to provide safe drinking water and promote safe hygiene practices in a rural area close to Lome', Togo. For information or to purchase tickets, contact Delali Degbey at 218-289-8188 or Courtney Bergman at 218-281-8188.

The project leader for this year's CWFE dinner is Afi Delali Degbey, a senior at the University of Minnesota Crookston, a midwife from Lome', Togo. She is majoring in applied studies and working on a certificate in health informatics. She is dedicated to improving the well-being of women and children in her country and around the world, but particularly in the poverty-stricken are where she grew up.

### Background

In order to sustain life, humans need clean, safe water. Believing in equality and the vital importance of clean water, Wemimo Abbey leads an effort to bring safe, clean drinking water to underdeveloped countries. It began when he was an undergraduate at the University of Minnesota Crookston when he realized how very little his peers knew about the desperate need for clean drinking water following the news of the devastating earthquake in Haiti. It became apparent to Abbey, that not only did his peers need educating, but also he might be the catalyst necessary to bring clean water to those who needed it.

Abbey came from the populous city of Lagos, Nigeria, to the small, insular, rural campus in northwestern Minnesota. While life on campus was vastly different, Abbey immersed himself in the culture and embraced the opportunity to involve himself. He won the trust and respect of his classmates and also of the faculty and staff.

He took on leadership roles in the student government and in clubs and organizations he joined. It was in his role as a student leader that he began to talk to others about the desperate need in underdeveloped countries for drinking water--something taken for granted by those around him. Abbey sought council from faculty inside and outside the institution and from experts who had led similar efforts.

As the clean water effort grew, so did his resolve. It is from this determination and deep conviction to help others that Clean Water for Everyone was born. Today more than two years since its inception, Clean Water for Everyone has become a non-profit organization dedicated to providing access to sustainable clean water and sanitation for communities around the world. The organization's efforts have provided more than 48,000 people with clean water. Donations are used to build water infrastructure, toilet renovation, filtration systems, and more. For information, visit [cwfe.org](http://cwfe.org).

The University of Minnesota Crookston now delivers 31 bachelor's degree programs, 22 minors, and 36 concentrations on campus as well as 14 degree programs entirely online. These degrees are offered in the areas of agriculture and natural resources; business; liberal arts and education; and math, science and technology. With an enrollment of 1,800 undergraduates from more than 20 countries and 40 states, the Crookston campus offers a supportive, close-knit atmosphere that leads to a prestigious University of Minnesota degree. "Small Campus. Big Degree." To learn more, visit [www.umcrookston.edu](http://www.umcrookston.edu).

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